

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

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R 120402Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1260

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3123

DEPT PASS DOD; CANBERRA PASS SECRETARY CLEMENTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS)

SUBJECT: CLEMENTS VISIT TO MANILA

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS AND ACCOMPANYING PARTY SPENT HECTIC DAY AND HALF IN PHILIPPINES, ARRIVING AT CLARK FIELD EVENING MARCH 10 AND DEPARTING FROM MANILA MORNING MARCH 12. DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY VISITED AND WERE BRIEFED ON U.S. BASES AT CLARK AND SUBIC, HAD TWO-HOUR WORKING LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS PHILIPPINE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY ELEMENTS U.S. COUNTRY TEAM, AND ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR WITH SENIOR PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. DURING MARCOS LUNCHEON, PRESIDENT SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING ORIGINA OF SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNLF, POLITICS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, AND MILITARY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY AFP. HE MADE LOW-KEYED PITCH FOR CONTINUED EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF MAP EQUIPMENT TO MATCH EXPANDING SIZE OF PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES COMMITTED TO SOUTHERN OPERATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND STRESSED FACT HE CONSIDERED THIS AFFAIR AN INTERNAL

PHILIPPINE PROBLEM WHICH DID NOT CALL FOR DIRECT MILITARY SUPPORT FROM ALLIES.

3. PRESIDENT ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM. HE ASKED FOR SECRETARY'S OPINION OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AID. SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WAS "REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC" CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE SOME AID, IF NOT ALL THAT HAD BEEN REQUESTED, AND DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN SITUATIONS IN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S QUESTION ABOUT PHILIPPINE ATTITUDES TOWARDS DIEGO GARCIA, MARCOS CAREFULLY POINTED OUT ABSENCE ANY DIRECT PHILIPPINE INTEREST IN INDIAN OCEAN, BUT GAVE GENERAL STATEMENT OF PHILIPPINE CONVICTION THAT U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN REGION WAS A STABILIZING FORCE WHICH HE WELCOMED.

5. WHEN SECRETARY ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON MARIANAS, MARCOS SAID HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED TIME MAGAZINE INQUIRY ABOUT U.S. INTENTION TO WITHDRAW ITS BASES FROM PHILIPPINES AND CONSTRUCT NEW REDOUBT IN NORTH MARIANAS. AFTER SECRETARY PLACED U.S. ACTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE, MARCOS MERELY REITERATED POLICY OF WELCOMING RETENTION OF U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES.

6. MEETING WITH COUNTRY TEAM AFFORDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS U.S. MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS, VALUE OF PHILIPPINE BASES, AND PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES. IMPLICIT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USE OF BASES AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS REVIEWED, AND THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF PUTATIVE RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BASES IN EVENT CONGRESS TERMINATES MILITARY AID PROGRAMS.

7. PRESS PLAY OF SECRETARY'S VISIT CONSISTED OF FRONT PAGE STORIES ON ALL THREE MANILA DAILIES MARCH 12, WITH STRESS ON MARCOS STATEMENT THAT "FOREIGN FORCES" ARE NOT NEEDED TO HANDLE SECESSIONIST PROBLEM. SEMI-OFFICIAL EXPRESS ALSO HAD SECOND-PAGE PICTURE OF MARCOS AND SECRETARY SHAKING HANDS.

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8. COMMENT: AS ALWAYS, EMBASSY WELCOMES VISITS SUCH AS THIS FROM SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST IN AND CONCERNED FOR PHILIPPINES. SECRETARY CLEMENTS AND HIS GROUP ALSO PERFORMED VALUABLE FUNCTION OF PROVIDING AUTHORITATIVE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON SEVERAL MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE PHILIPPINES.

9. THIS CABLE WAS PREPARED AFTER DEPARTURE SECRETARY CLEMENTS FROM MANILA, AND HE MAY WISH TO ADD OTHER OBSERVATIONS, OR MODIFY THOSE REPORTED ABOVE.  
SULLIVAN

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